

AskOxford: code

Page 1 of 1



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Compact Oxford English Dictionary

code

• **noun** 1 a system of words, figures, or symbols used to represent others, especially for the purposes of secrecy. 2 (also **dialling code**) a sequence of numbers dialled to connect a telephone line with another exchange. 3 Computing program instructions. 4 a systematic collection of laws or statutes: *the penal code*. 5 a set of conventions governing behaviour.

• **verb** 1 convert into a code. 2 usu. **coded** express in an indirect or euphemistic way.

— DERIVATIVES **coder** noun.

— ORIGIN originally denoting a collection of statutes in ancient Rome: from Latin *codex* 'block of wood'.

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